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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 561
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate John M. Wood for ten years of meritorious service at the Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good and who are celebrating milestones in their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to specially recognize citizens of our state who, although unheralded, work hard, perform their duties with extraordinary dedication and diligence, and are exemplary Christian servants; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend John M. Wood is one such remarkable person, as a voice of integrity in the Knoxville community and in the Presbyterian denomination; and

WHEREAS, a concerned individual whose benevolent nature knows no bounds, John Wood is always ready with a kind word and eager to lend a helping hand to those in need; and

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WHEREAS, having grown up in North Carolina, John Wood moved to the great state of Tennessee ten years ago to serve the good people of the Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, where he still serves today through his inspired words from the pulpit and as a pastor of the people; and

WHEREAS, Brother Wood and the fine members of the Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church are celebrating ten wonderful years together, by commemorating this momentous event with great joy in remembering the past, giving thanks for the present, and eagerly anticipating the future; and

WHEREAS, John Wood attributes his longevity to his love and faith in God and his stalwart commitment to living each day by Christian principles; and

WHEREAS, as a talented and respected student, the Reverend Wood studied at the University of Massachusetts and received his theological education from the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Hebrew University; and

WHEREAS, an articulate and eloquent communicator, Brother John Wood has answered his higher calling to spread the gospel as a speaker for the World Vision Pastors' Conferences in Eastern and Western Europe, India and Africa and as a frequent conference speaker for other churches and mission organizations, in addition to rendering superb service as a preacher for the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of the religious community, the Reverend John Wood has lent his many talents to a number of estimable organizations, including the Covenant Theological Seminary's Board of Trustees, the Reformed Theological Seminary's Board of Ministerial Advisors, Wheaton College's Board of Visitors, the North American Council of World Evangelical Fellowship, and the National Association of Evangelicals' Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his excellent service, John Wood has adhered to the common sense approach and has displayed the common touch in all endeavors, working well with old and young alike; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, John Wood is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his adoring wife, Marianne, and their three children, Rachel, David, and Sarah; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wood is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting and fly fishing; he also maintains his razor-sharp intellect as a voracious reader; and

WHEREAS, his open heart, indomitable spirit and stalwart ethics have endeared the Reverend John Wood to the hearts of the members of Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, devoted servants such as Brother Wood are the rock-solid foundation upon which our society is built and a beacon of sanity and continuity in these turbulent times; and

WHEREAS, John M. Wood is the perfect example of an individual totally committed to God and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate the Reverend John M. Wood for his ten years of meritorious service to the Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church and wish him all the best in his future endeavors in the Lord's work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.